

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE, BOX H
BOULDER, MT 59632
PHONE 406-225-4025
FAX 406-225-4148

KEN WEBER, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

TOM LYTHGOE

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
March 20, 2007**

Present: Commissioners Weber and Notbohm; Mike Hoffman, County Planner; Tom Harrington, JLDC; Marga Lincoln, *Helena Independent Record*; Ernie Kennison, Charlotte Crosswhite, Steve Wendell, Celia Wolny

Absent: Commissioner Lythgoe

MINUTES

Commissioner Weber moved to accept the minutes of February 27. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

3/21 JLDC - 6:00
3/22 Tunnels Open House - 1:00 - 3:00
Zoning Commission - 4:00
Health Board - 5:30
Solid Waste Board - 7:00
3/26 Public meeting re: roads - 6:30

COMMISSION REPORTS

FAIRGROUNDS UPGRADE

Commissioner Notbohm reported that the Fair Board opened bids for the fairgrounds building upgrade. Two bids were submitted, and Dave Ramey came in lowest. This item is already in the budget, so the Commission has no need to take action on this.

SB339

Commissioner Weber reported that he testified in front of committee on SB339 the previous week. The bill was in executive session yesterday, and passed 12 to 4. It is having its second reading today.

INSURANCE

Commissioner Notbohm reported that he met with Bonnie that morning. They need to double-March 20, 2007 minutes.wpd

check if they did a review of the fairgrounds and carousel by the insurance carrier.

SUBDIVISION REVIEW

FINAL PLAT APPROVAL - LaHOOD MINOR SUBDIVISION

Mike Hoffman, County Planner, presented his staff report. He stated that this is a single lot split to separate commercial and residential properties. Mike recommended that final plat approval be granted. Commissioner Notbohm moved to grant final plat approval to the LaHood Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion carried.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Commissioner Notbohm stated that the County owns a cabin taken through tax deed, and someone else owns the land that the cabin sits on. Elkhorn Goldfields is interested in purchasing the cabin. Commissioner Notbohm moved to accept the sale of the cabin. Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion carried.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON ARLENE BRENTANO REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC IN BOULDER

Commissioner Weber stated that Arlene is not in attendance, and the Commission has not received any information about this either. Because the only other agenda item is time specific, he stated that the meeting would recess until that time.

Commissioner Weber asked Charlotte Crosswhite some questions about the spay/neuter program in Helena, as she is a member of the task force. She explained the process and suggested that representatives from the Humane Society, Spay/Neuter Task Force and Jefferson County sit down and discuss, as this needs long-range planning. Commissioner Weber stated that this is a good idea; they need to pull everything together to make valid decisions.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON COUNTY SUPPORT FOR SOUTH CAMPUS SEWER LINE UPGRADE

Tom Harrington, JLDC, gave the Commissioners a point paper outlining the history and proposal of this project. Tom stated that in February, they had a backup of the antiquated sewer lines at the south campus; the city would take no responsibility. The JLDC wants to do an engineering study to determine what needs to be done, with the cost of the study to be divided between the entities who own the effected parcels. Commissioner Notbohm noted that there is private property on the west side of the road, and asked if they will take part in this. Tom stated that there are a couple of businesses they are working with on expansion projects that are on that side of the road. Commissioner Notbohm stated that there is no way to know the cost of the project until the engineering is done. Commissioner Weber asked Tom who the JLDC has approached. Tom stated that they have talked to the private parties involved, the JLDC and they have also contacted MDT.

Commissioner Notbohm stated that he read the minutes of the last JLDC meeting, where they

spoke with the City of Boulder, it sounded like the City was not too anxious to be involved. Tom stated that the mayor is in favor of moving forward.

Commissioner Notbohm asked if there is any concern with the lagoons being able to handle this. He also noted that the City could benefit from this being done, and asked if they discussed discounted rates. Tom stated that it is still very early in the process. He is not sure what the population of MDC was, but they were using the lagoon system at that time. Commissioner Notbohm stated that at their height, there were 1000 residents and 300 staff. He also noted that there is more land that can be developed for the lagoon. Tom stated that he sees this as a two-part project, the engineering and upgrade to the south campus and the expansion of the lagoons. Commissioner Weber asked if the City would consider the annexation of these properties after the upgrade. Tom stated that they would. Commissioner Notbohm asked if it is appropriate for them to enter into this, as a county entity. Commissioner Weber stated that it is appropriate for us as we own the property. The way he understands this, the city is not interested in doing an upgrade, because the system is antiquated. They can wait and deal with this on insurance claims or they can just deal with the problem. Tom stated that they are fortunate that the blockage happened on the weekend, so that the central shop was not contributing to the backup.

Commissioner Notbohm asked if any of the other facilities in the area, such as Riverside, would be a part of this. Tom stated that he is not sure how their system is. Commissioner Notbohm asked about the meth treatment center. Commissioner Weber stated that they have a new system, with a direct line to the hookup. Commissioner Notbohm asked if they knew what percentage of the city has antiquated pipes, as there may be grants available to help with this.

Commissioner Weber stated that they might by default help the city with their planning, but this will also be helping with ours. He noted that they have a commitment from everyone but Jefferson County and MDT. The price range of the project concerns him, and he questioned why it is so broad. Tom stated that the final price will be dependent on what grants they pursue and receive.

Celia Wolny stated that they have mentioned the lagoon, but it is her understanding that this is not to study the lagoon, but the cost to replace sewer lines and the cost to take them across the river. Tom stated that he hasn't seen the scope of work. Celia stated that she isn't sure when the last study was done, but it would make sense to study the lagoon first to see if they could handle the increase. She asked if anything like this has been done. Commissioner Weber stated that she is asking the wrong governmental body. Celia stated that the lagoon capacity needs to be studied before they try to add more. She asked about the new businesses. Tom stated that he doesn't have all of the information at this time. Celia asked if the city will be required to do any environmental assessment before this is done, as it is in a flood plane. Tom stated that it would be best to ask the businesses directly; they will have to go through the permitting process. Celia stated that this project is going to benefit just a few people; she asked if the entire city of Boulder is going to have to pay higher water and sewer fees because of this. Tom stated that this, too, is a question for the city. He assumes that the usage will be metered. The lagoon will be part of the engineered study; it could be that the lagoon needs to be expanded. Celia asked if there is any way to find out up front. Commissioner Weber stated that sometimes they need to put the cart in front of the horse and it is frustrating. If they were to go to the DEQ with a hypothetical, they

would be sent away. They will want to see an engineered study of the plans of what we want to do; then they can analyze it. Celia stated that she can understand that; she will take her questions to the city. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he is sure that the city is pretty up on this; it was in the paper not too long ago. There is an on-going discussion with the DEQ regarding the future of the lagoon systems. Commissioner Weber stated that he knows when the meth center was first proposed, this was dealt with.

Tom stated that there are two parts to the study, the existing system and the proposed expansion. Ernie Kennison stated that the points paper discusses agreements to fund the feasibility study. If the study says that all is fine and they can go forward, how will the upgrade be funded. Tom stated that they will pursue a grant through the CDBG program. This will require cooperation between all the parties involved. Ernie stated that they will still move forward in a partnership environment.

Commissioner Weber stated that he is all for future planning, but the key in his mind is our properties are freezing up and breaking. Whether there is expansion or not, the study is needed. He would prefer not to wait until we are reacting to a problem. They can use the study to fix the current problem and also to do some future planning. They have a problem now that needs to be addressed. Celia stated that it is her understanding that the study is not going to address anything other than the cost to replace pipes. Tom stated that he can say from experience with CDBG, they won't let us do anything without knowing that the lagoons will handle it. Commissioner Weber said that he knows that CDBG will want all questions answered and the DEQ will need definite plans before they answer any questions. Commissioner Notbohm stated that the only problem he has with this is that he would like to see the city's name on this, because we will be building their system. He asked how much they are agreeing to and where it is to come from. Commissioner Weber stated that the cost listed for Jefferson County will be between \$650 to \$1950. He feels that this is an appropriate use of metal mines money. The city, unfortunately, is not involved; this is not in the city limits. Commissioner Notbohm stated that we are their customer. Commissioner Weber stated that it is the same as building a house; it is the builder's responsibility to get the house's sewer line out to the city.

Commissioner Weber moved to grant up to \$1950 from metal mines monies toward grant match to get a Big Sky Development Trust Fund grant for a feasibility study. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

KEN WEBER, CHAIR

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, COMMISSIONER

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER